U 7980-1

NEW MEXICO BUSINESS

CURRENT ECONOMIC REPORT

Vol. 12 No. 2
March 1991

New Mexico County Populations: 1910–1990

At the beginning of the 19th century, New Mexico was still a colony of Spain. However, by 1821, New Mexico ceased to be a colony and became a part of Mexico. During 1846, New Mexico was claimed by American forces advancing against Mexico during the Mexican-American War. In 1848, New Mexico together with Arizona and California officially became territories of the United States.

This annexation led to the opening of the West to migration from other parts of the United States. The abundance of cheap and, in some cases, free land as well as the prospect of mining for gold attracted large numbers of migrants to the region.

The Civil War broke out in 1861 and although New Mexico was geographically aligned with the Southern States, the political sentiments were with the Union. The Civil War stimulated some economic growth, but with the resumption of peacetime, an increase of settlers caused hostilities to rise among a number of the Indian tribes. The military forces were reorganized to begin a series of campaigns to contain the warring tribes, principally the Apaches and Navajos.

These campaigns required a network of military forts to be established. After the Apaches and Navajos were defeated and relocated to Indian reservations, vast areas of land were opened up to ranching and homesteading. Both agriculture and livestock production escalated with the largest purchaser of these products being the U.S. Army.

New Mexico's population remained relatively stable until the opening of a direct railroad service to Los Angeles, Phoenix, El Paso and Denver. The railhead to Albuquerque was completed in 1880, and with its completion, an era of heretofore unheralded economic prosperity was brought upon the region. Albuquerque became the center of commerce for the State and new markets throughout the rest of the country were opened up.

The railway system provided a new impetus to increased mining activities in New Mexico. Equipment needed for effective mining operations was shipped in more cheaply. Increased prospecting yielded gold, silver, zinc, coal and copper ore in the counties of Socorro, Lincoln, Sierra, Colfax, McKinley and San Juan. Almost overnight, boom towns were established to accomodate the overflow of miners.

The discovery of artesian water sources in the 1890s also led to the expansion of agriculture in the Pecos and San Juan Basins. The railway system facilitated the transportation of agricultural products, and the sudden surge of development throughout the territory paved the way for statehood.

In the years prior to statehood, Bernalillo County, with a population of about 24,000 in 1910, was the most populous county, edging out San Miguel County whose poulation was approximately 23,000 (Table 1, page 2). Chaves County (16,850), Rio Arriba (16,624), Colfax (16,460), Quay (14,912), Grant (14,813), Santa Fe (14,770), Socorro (14,761), and Valencia (13,320) complete the ten largest counties during this period. Santa Fe and Bernalillo counties were the trade and service centers during this time while the remaining counties were largely mining and agricultural centers.

Although the move towards statehood had been initiated as early as 1875, New Mexico was not accepted in the Union until 1912. During this period of transition, the Mexican Revolution broke out and border towns in Northern Mexico became frequent targets. The civil unrest resulted in increased migration of Mexican citizens to New Mexican towns, especially those close to the Texas/Mexican Border.

Once again, peace had barely been established before the U.S. became embroiled in World War I. New Mexicans were among the first to volunteer for the war. Deming, in Luna County, became a major training center for soldiers. During its peak as many as 30,000 troops were in training at Camp Cody, Deming.

The increased demand for agricultural and mining products brought about by the outbreak of World War I stimulated even more migration to New Mexico. New Mexico's population increased by just over 33,000 between 1910 and 1920. The Southwest Region alone increased by 24,000. Luna County accounted for 35% and Grant County contributed 30% of the growth in the Southwest. Sierra County contributed about 5% to the region's population growth. Socorro County was the only Southwestern county that lost population during this period.

As for other parts of the State, the Northeast Region, which included Colfax, Guadalupe, Mora, Rio Arriba, Quay, San Miguel, Santa Fe, Taos and Union counties, accounted for 25% of the total population increase during this time. The growth centers were largely the agricultural and mining counties of Union, Colfax and Rio Arriba. San Miguel (−63), Guadalupe (−2,912) and Quay (−4,468) counties lost population during this period.

The Southeast Region lost about 6,000 people between 1910 and 1920. The biggest losers were the counties along the Texas border. Roosevelt County lost about 5,500 people, Chaves about 4,800 and Eddy about 3,300 people. Some of the population loss of Chaves and Eddy counties was due to the creation of Lea County. In 1917, Lea County was created out of Eddy and Chaves counties. De Baca also became a separate county in 1917.

Bureau of Business and Economic Research, The University of New Mexico
1920 Lomas NE, Albuquerque, NM 87131-6021
Main Office: (505) 277-2216 Data Bank: (505) 277-6626

In the next two decades, the tide of population growth swung in favor of the Southeast Region. By 1940, the average annual growth rate for the region was approximately 3.47% (Table 2, page 7). Lea County grew at a phenomenal annual rate of 12.36% between 1930 and 1940.

The Middle Rio Grande Region, which includes Bernalillo, Sandoval, Torrance and Valencia counties, was the second fastest growing region, advancing at an annual average rate 3.34% during the 1930s. Bernalillo County (4.24%) dominated the population growth scene in this region. By contrast, the Southwest Region, which grew at an average of 1.14% annually, was now the slowest growing region. The average

(continued on page 7)

TABLE 1

New Mexico Population by Region and County: 1910–1990

	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990
STATE	327,301	360,350	423,317	531,818	681,187	951,023	1,017,055	1,303,302	1,515,069
Northeastern	132,646	140,826	141,769	166,541	173,893	167,267	173,597	203,367	237,548
Colfax	16,460	21,550	19,157	18,718	16,761	13,806	12,170	13,667	12,925
Guadalupe[1]	10,927	8,015	7,027	8,646	6,772	5,610	4,969	4,496	4,156
Harding[2]	NA	NA	4,421	4,374	3,013	1,874	1,348	1,090	987
Los Alamos[3]	NA	NA	NA	NA	10,476	13,037	15,198	17,599	18,115
Mora[2]	12,611	13,915	10,322	10,981	8,720	6,028	4,673	4,205	4,264
Quay	14,912	10,444	10,828	12,111	13,971	12,279	10,903	10,577	10,823
Rio Arriba[4]	16,624	19,552	21,381	25,352	24,997	24,193	25,170	29,282	34,365
San Miguel	22,930	22,867	23,636	27,910	26,512	23,468	21,951	22,751	25,743
Santa Fe[3,4,5]	14,770	15,030	19,567	30,826	38,153	44,970	54,774	75,519	98,928
Taos	12,008	12,773	14,394	18,528	17,146	15,934	17,516	19,456	23,118
Union[2]	11,404	16,680	11,036	9,095	7,372	6,068	4,925	4,725	4,124
Northwestern	21,467	22,064	35,344	40,756	45,743	90,515	95,725	168,315	176,085
Cibola[6]	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	30,346	23,794
McKinley	12,963	13,731	20,643	23,641	27,451	37,209	43,208	56,536	60,686
San Juan	8,504	8,333	14,701	17,115	18,292	53,306	52,517	81,433	91,605
Southeastern	67,648	61,441	88,323	124,957	177,504	258,461	241,208	270,781	287,527
Chaves[1]	16,850	12,075	19,549	23,980	40,605	57,649	43,335	51,103	57,849
Curry	11,443	11,236	15,809	18,159	23,351	32,691	39,517	42,019	42,207
De Baca[1]	NA	3,196	2,893	3,725	3,464	2,991	2,547	2,454	2,252
Eddy[1]	12,400	9,116	15,842	24,311	40,640	50,783	41,119	47,855	48,605
Lea[1]	NA	3,545	6,144	21,154	30,717	53,429	49,554	55,993	55,765
Lincoln	7,822	7,823	7,198	8,557	7,409	7,744	7,560	10,997	12,219
Otero	7,069	7,902	9,779	10,522	14,909	36,976	41,097	44,665	51,928
Roosevelt[1]	12,064	6,548	11,109	14,549	16,409	16,198	16,479	15,695	16,702
Southwestern	49,916	73,775	75,852	85,004	95,443	112,798	127,393	167,918	214,493
Catron[2]	NA	NA	3,282	4,881	3,533	2,773	2,198	2,720	2,563
Dona Ana	12,893	16,548	27,455	30,411	39,557	59,948	69,773	96,340	135,510
Grant[7]	14,813	21,939	19,050	20,050	21,649	18,700	22,030	26,204	27,676
Hidalgo[7]	NA	4,338	5,023	4,821	5,095	4,961	4,734	6,049	5,958
Luna	3,913	12,270	6,247	6,457	8,753	9,839	11,706	15,585	18,110
Sierra	3,536	4,619	5,184	6,962	7,186	6,409	7,189	8,454	9,912
Socorro[2]	14,761	14,061	9,611	11,422	9,670	10,168	9,763	12,566	14,764
Middle Rio Grande	55,624	62,244	82,029	114,560	188,604	321,982	379,132	492,921	599,416
Bernalillo	23,606	29,855	45,430	69,391	145,673	262,199	315,774	420,261	480,577
Sandoval[3,5]	8,579	8,863	11,144	13,898	12,438	14,201	17,492	34,400	63,319
Torrance	10,119	9,731	9,269	11,026	8,012	6,497	5,290	7,491	10,285
Valencia[6]	13,320	13,795	16,186	20,245	22,481	39,085	40,576	30,769	45,235

NA Not applicable.

[1]1917: De Baca County was organized from parts of Chaves, Guadalupe and Roosevelt counties; Lea County was organized from parts of Chaves and Eddy counties; Roosevelt County annexed a strip of land from Chaves County.

[2]1921: Catron County was organized from part of Socorro County; Harding County was organized from parts of Union and Mora counties.

[3]1949: Los Alamos County was organized from parts of Sandoval and Santa Fe counties.

[4]Part of Rio Arriba County annexed to Santa Fe County and part of Santa Fe County annexed to Rio Arriba County prior to 1950.

[5]Part of Sandoval County annexed to Santa Fe County prior to 1950.

[6]1981: Cibola County was organized from part of Valencia County.

[7]1919: Hidalgo County was organized from part of Grant County.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

U.S. ECONOMIC INDICATORS

	CURRENT MO/QTR	CURRENT DATA	% CHANGE YEAR AGO	PREVIOUS MO/ QTR DATA
Consumer price index				
All urban consumers (1982-84=100)				
All items	Jan 91	134.6	5.7	133.8
Food and beverages	Jan 91	135.9	4.5	133.9
Housing	Jan 91	131.8	4.7	130.5
Apparel and upkeep	Jan 91	123.8	6.1	125.3
Transportation	Jan 91	125.5	7.1	127.2
Medical care	Jan 91	171.0	9.7	169.2
Entertainment	Jan 91	135.5	4.3	134.6
Other goods and services	Jan 91	166.5	8.1	164.5
Revised series, wage earners and clerical workers (1982-84=100)				
All items	Jan 91	132.8	5.5	132.2
Gross national product* ($Bil. constant)	Q4 90	4149.5	0.4	4170.0
Prime interest rate** (% per annum)	Jan 91	9.5	-5.0	10.0
Mortgage interest rate*** (% per annum)	Jan 91	9.6	-2.6	9.8
3 month treasury bill# (% per annum)	Jan 91	6.3	-17.5	6.8
Industrial production## (1987=100)	Jan 91	106.5	-0.9	107.0
Manufacturers new orders## ($Bil.)	Dec 90	234.3	-2.7	235.7

NEW MEXICO AND U.S. COMPARISONS

		NEW MEXICO			UNITED STATES		
	CURRENT MO/QTR	CURRENT MO/QTR DATA	% CHANGE YEAR AGO	PREVIOUS MO/QTR DATA	CURRENT MO/QTR DATA	% CHANGE YEAR AGO	PREVIOUS MO/QTR DATA
Employment (000)	Jan 91	642.2	-0.2	659.5	114,990	-0.9	117,287
Unemployment rate (%)	Jan 91	7.2	-	6.5	7.0	-	5.9
Nonagricultural employment (000)	Jan 91	568.9	1.4	581.6	108,316	0.2	110,841
Personal income### ($Mil.)	Q3 90	21,438	6.2	21,115	4,661,995	6.3	4,605,604
Housing units permitted							
Single	Jan 91	279	-16.7	239	37,564	-38.4	37,280
Multi	Jan 91	23	-85.4	79	12,815	-74.8	15,921

Note: Selected data items subject to revision.
N Not available.
* 1982 dollars at seasonally adjusted annual rates.
** Closing rate for month.
*** Effective rate (in the primary market) on conventional mortgages, reflecting fees and charges as well as contract rate and assumed, on the average, repayment at end of 10 years.
# Rate on new issues within period; bank discount basis.
Monthly data seasonally adjusted.
Quarterly data seasonally adjusted at annual rates.
Sources: U. S. Department of Labor, News: CPI data;
New Mexico Department of Labor and U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics: employment and unemployment data.
U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis: income data;
U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census: construction data.
U. S. Council of Economic Advisors, Economic Indicators: all other data.

NEW MEXICO ECONOMIC INDICATORS

	CURRENT MO/QTR	CURRENT DATA	% CHANGE YEAR AGO	PREVIOUS MO/QTR DATA	% CHANGE# 12 MONTH AVERAGES
1. GENERAL					
Civilian labor force* (000)	Jan 91	691.7	1.4	705.4	0.5
Total employment* (000)	Jan 91	642.2	-0.2	659.5	0.6
Unemployment* (000)	Jan 91	49.5	27.9	45.9	-1.1
Unemployment rate (%)	Jan 91	7.2	-	6.5	-
Weekly new unemployment insurance claims	Jan 91	1963.0	27.8	1264.0	3.8
Nonagricultural wage/salary employment**(000)	Jan 91	568.9	1.4	581.6	2.2
Personal income*** ($ mil.)	Q3 90	21438.0	6.2	21115.0	6.5
New business incorporations	Dec 90	254.0	3.7	202.0	8.5
Business failure liabilities ($ 000)	Dec 89	1642.0	137.3	4004.0	-61.1
2. AGRICULTURAL RECEIPTS					
Livestock and products ($ mil.)	Dec 90	72.3	7.1	180.1	7.7
Crops ($ mil.)	Dec 90	40.1	15.2	55.0	0.0
Total ($ mil.)	Dec 90	112.4	9.9	235.0	5.3
3. MINING					
Employment** (000)	Jan 91	15.8	0.6	16.1	5.4
Average hourly earnings ($)	Jan 91	12.82	2.4	12.79	4.2
Petroleum production (000 bbls.)	Jan 91	5956.2	3.0	5748.2	-0.4
Natural gas production (bil. cu. ft.)	Jan 91	94.0	9.6	90.3	12.8
Coal production (000 short tons)	Jan 91	2202.0	18.6	1436.0	1.6
Oil well completions&	Jan 91	45.0	-10.0	44.0	24.6
Gas well completions&	Jan 91	73.0	12.3	97.0	67.2
Total footage drilled&& (000)	Jan 91	500.7	-27.1	548.9	23.5
Oil sales ($ mil.)	Nov 90	168.6	72.6	188.3	24.2
Gas sales ($ mil.)	Nov 90	159.0	42.1	135.9	27.5
4. CONSTRUCTION					
Employment** (000)	Jan 91	27.6	-1.1	29.9	-2.6
Average hourly earnings ($)	Jan 91	11.07	-6.7	11.14	-1.8
Residential units permitted	Jan 91	302.0	-38.6	318.0	-12.0
Residential building permits ($ mil.)	Jan 91	23.5	-36.7	22.6	-0.5
Nonresidential building permits ($ mil.)	Jan 91	5.8	-19.4	18.8	-25.9
Residential construction contracts ($ mil.)	Jan 91	25.0	-6.4	23.8	-3.7
Nonresidential construction contracts ($mil.)	Jan 91	12.6	-41.1	25.8	-15.8
Nonbuilding construction contracts ($ mil.)	Jan 91	33.3	38.7	35.4	-4.5
5. TRANSPORTATION/COMMUNICATION/UTILITIES					
Employment** (000)	Jan 91	28.7	-1.4	29.1	-0.7
Communications average hourly earnings ($)	Jan 91	14.74	6.2	14.88	5.6
Utilities average hourly earnings## ($)	Jan 91	14.72	1.4	14.56	-0.4
6. MANUFACTURING					
Employment** (000)	Jan 91	42.7	1.4	42.9	0.9
Average hourly earnings ($)	Jan 91	9.33	3.1	9.30	3.8
Electric & electronic equipment employment** (000)	Jan 91	6.4	8.5	6.4	5.0
Transportation equipment employment** (000)	Jan 91	5.5	0.0	5.5	3.7
Food & kindred products employment** (000)	Jan 91	4.1	2.5	4.1	7.5
Textile & apparel employment** (000)	Jan 91	2.6	-3.7	2.6	-7.1
Lumber & wood products employment** (000)	Jan 91	2.6	0.0	2.5	0.0

NEW MEXICO ECONOMIC INDICATORS (continued)

	CURRENT MO/QTR	CURRENT DATA	% CHANGE YEAR AGO	PREVIOUS MO/QTR DATA	% CHANGE# 12 MONTH AVERAGES
7. TRADE					
Wholesale employment** (000)	Jan 91	24.5	1.7	24.9	1.2
Retail employment** (000)	Jan 91	111.0	1.1	115.0	1.8
Average hourly earnings ($)	Jan 91	7.16	-0.7	7.38	0.8
8. FINANCE/INSURANCE/REAL ESTATE					
Employment** (000)	Jan 91	25.7	-1.5	26.0	-1.1
Bank average hourly earnings ($)	Jan 91	6.99	2.3	6.90	1.5
Bank total assets ($ mil.)	Q3 90	11096.0	6.5	11228.0	5.8
Bank total deposits ($ mil.)	Q3 90	9454.0	8.8	9499.0	7.1
Bank net loans ($ mil.)	Q3 90	5818.0	0.5	5875.0	0.8
S & L total assets ($ mil.)	Dec 89	4871.0	-9.6	4943.0	-9.7
S & L total deposits ($ mil.)	Dec 89	4445.0	-4.6	4492.0	-4.8
S & L new mortgage loans closed&&& ($ mil.)	Dec 89	58.0	-37.0	46.0	-30.7
9. SERVICES AND TOURISM					
Total service employment** (000)	Jan 91	146.3	3.0	147.2	4.3
Lodging employment** (000)	Jan 91	11.5	2.7	11.9	1.7
Eating & drinking places employment** (000)	Jan 91	41.1	1.2	42.4	2.9
Visits to state parks (000)	Jan 91	89.3	-13.6	110.8	-2.5
Visits to national parks/monuments (000)	Dec 90	65.2	-18.8	98.6	-0.5
Passenger traffic at Albuquerque airport@ (000)	Jan 91	366.9	5.8	381.0	5.6
Lodgers tax receipts ($ 000)	Q4 90	3104.4	2.3	3787.1	7.3
Lodging occupancy rates (%)	Jan 91	51.1	2.8	47.6	-1.0
10. GOVERNMENT					
Total government employment** (000)	Jan 91	146.6	1.6	150.5	2.8
Federal employment** (000)	Jan 91	32.2	3.9	32.0	2.5
State employment** @@ (000)	Jan 91	49.3	1.9	52.4	3.2
Local employment** (000)	Jan 91	65.1	0.3	66.1	2.5
Total general fund revenues@@@ ($ mil.)	Dec 90	136.4	1.9	150.4	5.0

Note: selected data items subject to revision.
N Not available.
* Number of persons by place of residence.
** Number of jobs by place of work.
*** Quarterly data seasonally adjusted at annual rates.
& These include wells that are in the following categories: new drillings, deepened, plugged back, reentry and additional zone.
&& Oil and gas combined.
&&& New mortgage loans closed equals the previously carried item "Total loans closed" plus a relatively insignificant additional loan category.
# For example, in the report that contained June 1985 figures this would be the percent change in the average of July 1983 to June 1984 data versus the average of July 1984 to June 1985 data.
Does not include transportation.
@ Passenger traffic includes enplanements and deplanements.
@@ This figure includes full and part time employment at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). Full time equivalent employment (FTE) at LANL is 7,733 as of March 1990 according to LANL Personnel Dept.
@@@ Includes recurring and non-recurring revenues.

Sources: New Mexico Department of Labor: Sections 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10;
Dun and Bradstreet, Inc.: Section 1;
U. S. Dept of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis: Section 1;
USDA Statistical Reporting Service: Section 2;
New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Dept., Oil and Gas Conservation Division: Section 3;
New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Dept., Oil and Gas Accounting Division: Section 3;
U. S. Dept. of Energy, Energy Information Administration: Section 3;
U. S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census: Section 4;
F. W. Dodge Company (a division of McGraw Hill, Inc.): Section 4;
U. S. Federal Reserve: Section 8;
Federal Home Loan Bank of Dallas: Section 8;
U. S. Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation: Section 8;
New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Dept., Park and Recreation Division: Section 9;
U. S. National Park Service: Section 9;
City of Albuquerque, Albuquerque International Airport: Section 9;
New Mexico Dept. of Finance and Administration, Local Government Division: Section 9;
Pannell, Kerr and Forster: Section 9;
New Mexico Dept. of Finance and Administration: Section 10.

CITIES, COUNTIES AND FEATURES

GROSS RECEIPTS# FROM RETAIL TRADE
TOP 20 CITIES
($000)

	CURRENT 3 MONTH AVERAGE* NOV-JAN	% CHANGE AVERAGE YEAR AGO	PREVIOUS 3 MONTH AVERAGE* AUG-OCT
Alamogordo	$ 16,468	4.5	$ 14,846
Albuquerque	292,289	2.0	253,011
Artesia	6,384	5.9	5,071
Carlsbad	15,527	13.3	14,447
Clovis	20,362	12.3	17,805
Deming	6,964	7.9	6,017
Espanola	8,206	13.9	7,503
Farmington	43,160	15.2	35,904
Gallup	24,132	-4.4	25,932
Hobbs	20,115	11.1	16,647
Las Cruces	47,167	14.3	39,625
Las Vegas	8,205	21.3	7,337
Los Alamos	7,586	-5.8	6,437
Portales	5,839	4.5	5,290
Rio Rancho	8,272	34.8	7,569
Roswell	25,003	5.2	19,691
Ruidoso	6,591	7.1	7,055
Santa Fe	71,603	9.5	72,123
Silver City	9,920	7.3	8,343
Taos	10,768	9.6	10,886
State total	841,575	7.9	758,921

\# Gross receipts reported are for gross receipts tax purposes, which do not include all the receipts of all firms.
* Averages are used to smooth out fluctuations in the data, which are not caused by changes in economic conditions.

Source: New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department.

NEW MEXICO CONSTRUCTION@
SELECTED CITIES

	NUMBER OF BUILDING UNITS OR PERMITS *				VALUE OF BUILDING PERMITS ($000)			
	JAN. 1991	JAN. 1990	CUMULATIVE TOTAL THROUGH JAN. 1991	CUMULATIVE TOTAL THROUGH JAN. 1990	JAN. 1991	JAN. 1990	CUMULATIVE TOTAL THROUGH JAN. 1991	CUMULATIVE TOTAL THROUGH JAN. 1990
NEW RESIDENTIAL**								
Alamogordo	1	3	1	3	$ 52	$ 221	$ 52	$ 221
Albuquerque, Total	59	151	59	151	6,778	10,587	6,778	10,587
Single Family	59	133	59	133	6,778	10,155	6,778	10,155
Multi Family	0	18	0	18	0	432	0	432
Carlsbad	2	4	2	4	165	214	165	214
Clovis	13	21	13	21	830	6,590	830	6,590
Farmington	2	2	2	2	128	132	128	132
Hobbs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Las Cruces	17	38	17	38	919	1,898	919	1,898
Los Alamos	0	1	0	1	0	170	0	170
Rio Rancho	43	29	43	29	2,084	1,625	2,084	1,625
Roswell	6	2	6	2	516	118	516	118
Ruidoso	2	1	2	1	92	71	92	71
Santa Fe	29	31	29	31	2,088	3,168	2,088	3,168
NEW NONRESIDENTIAL								
Alamogordo	1	2	1	2	1,526	231	1,526	231
Albuquerque	0	4	0	4	0	1,626	0	1,626
Carlsbad	5	5	5	5	150	18	150	18
Clovis	4	2	4	2	861	289	861	289
Farmington	1	1	1	1	279	40	279	40
Hobbs	0	3	0	3	0	772	0	772
Las Cruces	5	6	5	6	457	790	457	790
Los Alamos	0	1	0	1	0	80	0	80
Rio Rancho	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roswell	2	3	2	3	15	6	15	6
Ruidoso	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Santa Fe	3	6	3	6	180	431	180	431

Note: Top twelve cities chosen on basis of residential construction activity during the period 1982 through 1984.
@ Data refer only to permits authorized for private construction projects. Public buildings and projects are excluded.
* Residential data shows the number of permitted units, while nonresidential data shows the number of permits.
** Residential data includes both single and multi-family units. In the case of Albuquerque, single and multi-family units are also shown separately.

Sources: U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census: all cities, except for Rio Rancho;
City of Rio Rancho: Rio Rancho only.

County Population . . . (Continued from Page 2)

annual growth for New Mexico between 1930 and 1940 was 2.28%.

New Mexico grew steadily throughout the war years. By 1960, the State was growing at an annual rate of 3.34%. Contributing to this explosive population growth were the counties in the Northwest (6.82%) and the Middle Rio Grande regions (5.35%). Increased mining activities in the Northwest Region attracted large numbers of migrants. According to the 1950 Census, San Juan had 18,292 people and McKinley had 27,451. When the 1960 Census was taken San Juan had grown to 53,306 people—an average of 10.7% annually. McKinley

(continued on page 8)

TABLE 2

Annual Average Intercensal Population Growth Rates (%) for New Mexico by Region and County: 1910–1990

	1910–20	1920–30	1930–40	1940–50	1950–60	1960–70	1970–80	1980–90
STATE	0.96	1.61	2.28	2.48	3.34	0.67	2.48	1.51
Northeastern	0.60	0.07	1.61	0.43	−0.39	0.37	1.58	1.55
Colfax	2.69	−1.18	−0.23	−1.10	−1.94	−1.26	1.16	−0.56
Guadalupe[1]	−3.10	−1.32	2.07	−2.44	−1.88	−1.21	−1.00	−0.79
Harding[2]	NA	NA	−0.11	−3.73	−4.75	−3.29	−2.12	−0.99
Los Alamos[3]	NA	NA	NA	NA	2.19	1.53	1.47	0.29
Mora[2]	0.98	−2.99	0.62	−2.31	−3.69	−2.55	−1.06	0.14
Quay	−3.56	0.36	1.12	1.43	−1.29	−1.19	−0.30	0.23
Rio Arriba[4]	1.62	0.89	1.70	−0.14	−0.33	0.40	1.51	1.60
San Miguel	−0.03	0.33	1.66	−0.51	−1.22	−0.67	0.36	1.24
Santa Fe[3,4,5]	0.17	2.64	4.55	2.13	1.64	1.97	3.21	2.70
Taos	0.62	1.19	2.52	−0.78	−0.73	0.95	1.05	1.72
Union[2]	3.80	−4.13	−1.93	−2.10	−1.95	−2.09	−0.41	−1.36
Northwestern	0.27	4.71	1.42	1.15	6.82	0.56	5.64	0.45
Cibola[6]	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	−2.43
McKinley	0.58	4.08	1.36	1.49	5.04	1.49	2.69	0.71
San Juan	−0.20	5.68	1.52	0.67	10.70	−0.15	4.39	1.18
Southeastern	−0.96	3.63	3.47	3.51	3.76	−0.69	1.16	0.60
Chaves[1]	−3.33	4.82	2.04	5.27	3.50	−2.85	1.65	1.24
Curry	−0.18	3.41	1.39	2.51	3.36	1.90	0.61	0.04
De Baca[1]	NA	−1.00	2.53	−0.73	−1.47	−1.61	−0.37	−0.86
Eddy[1]	−3.08	5.53	4.28	5.14	2.23	−2.11	1.52	0.16
Lea[1]	NA	5.50	12.36	3.73	5.54	−0.75	1.22	−0.04
Lincoln	0.00	−0.83	1.73	−1.44	0.44	−0.24	3.75	1.05
Otero	1.11	2.13	0.73	3.48	9.08	1.06	0.83	1.51
Roosevelt[1]	−6.11	5.29	2.70	1.20	−0.13	0.17	−0.49	0.62
Southwestern	3.91	0.28	1.14	1.16	1.67	1.22	2.76	2.45
Catron[2]	NA	NA	3.97	−3.23	−2.42	−2.32	2.13	−0.59
Dona Ana	2.50	5.06	1.02	2.63	4.16	1.52	3.23	3.41
Grant[7]	3.93	−1.41	0.51	0.77	−1.46	1.64	1.74	0.55
Hidalgo[7]	NA	1.47	−0.41	0.55	−0.27	−0.47	2.45	−0.15
Luna	11.43	−6.75	0.33	3.04	1.17	1.74	2.86	1.50
Sierra	2.67	1.15	2.95	0.32	−1.14	1.15	1.62	1.59
Socorro[2]	−0.49	−3.80	1.73	−1.67	0.50	−0.41	2.52	1.61
Middle Rio Grande	1.12	2.76	3.34	4.99	5.35	1.63	2.62	1.96
Bernalillo	2.35	4.20	4.24	7.42	5.88	1.86	2.86	1.34
Sandoval[3,5]	0.33	2.29	2.21	−1.11	1.33	2.08	6.76	6.10
Torrance	−0.39	−0.49	1.74	−3.19	−2.10	−2.06	3.48	3.17
Valencia[6]	0.35	1.60	2.24	1.05	5.53	0.37	−2.77	3.85

NA Not applicable.

[1]1917: De Baca County was organized from parts of Chaves, Guadalupe and Roosevelt counties; Lea County was organized from parts of Chaves and Eddy counties; Roosevelt County annexed a strip of land from Chaves County.

[2]1921: Catron County was organized from part of Socorro County; Harding County was organized from parts of Union and Mora counties.

[3]1949: Los Alamos County was organized from parts of Sandoval and Santa Fe counties.

[4]Part of Rio Arriba County annexed to Santa Fe County and part of Santa Fe County annexed to Rio Arriba County prior to 1950.

[5]Part of Sandoval County annexed to Santa Fe County prior to 1950.

[6]1981: Cibola County was organized from part of Valencia County.

[7]1919: Hidalgo County was organized from part of Grant County.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census and Bureau of Business and Economic Research, UNM.

County Population . . .

(Continued from Page 7)

County grew at an average of 3.04% annually during the same period, increasing the county's population to 37,209.

Heavy defense and government spending fueled the growth of the counties in the Middle Rio Grande Region, particularly Bernalillo County (5.88%). Meanwhile, the rapid growth of Valencia County (5.53%) was largely due to inreased mining activity. At this time Valencia County included what would later become Cibola County.

Amidst rapid population expansion in other parts of the State, northeastern New Mexico suffered significant population losses during the post World War II years. Overall, the Northeast Region decreased at an average rate of 0.39% annually. Los Alamos County, which was created in 1950, grew at a yearly average rate of 2.19%. The only other county which experienced a positive growth rate during this period was Santa Fe County (1.64%). Harding County, with a population of 4,421 in 1930, nine years after its creation, lost about 58% of its population by 1960. This downward trend continues to the present. The 1990 Census has enumerated only 987 persons in Harding County.

Except for minor growth during the early years of statehood and in the 1930s, Mora County has also been on a downward spiral since 1940. A similar trend has been observed for Union County. At its peak in 1920, with a population of 16,680 people, Union County was the sixth largest in New Mexico. By 1990, with a population of 4,124, Union is the fourth smallest county in the State.

Colfax is another county which has been on the decline during the last 70 years. Colfax County's population increased between 1910 and 1920 and again between 1970 and 1980. These episodes of positive growth, however, have not been sufficient to abate Colfax County's population decline. Colfax has fewer people in 1990 (12,925) than in 1910 (16,460).

Following very slow population growth in the 1960s, New Mexico grew at an average of 2.48% annually during the 1970s. In the 1980s, New Mexico's population growth rate declined to 1.51% annually. From 1.3 million people in 1980, New Mexico's population increased to approximately 1.5 million people by 1990.

The decline in demand for various minerals, as well as the drop in oil prices led to slower economic growth in the State during the 1980s. Regions which were dependent on the extractive industries experienced heavy outmigration. Worst hit were those in the Northwest Region. Cibola County lost population during this period. The Southeast Region also experienced much slower population growth, advancing at an annual rate of only 0.6% during the 1980s.

By contrast, rapid population growth was observed in regions containing major metropolitan areas. The most rapid growth was observed in the Southwest Region (2.45%) and Dona Ana County (3.41%) accounted for most of the increase. The Middle Rio Grande Region (1.96%) was the second fastest growing, followed by the Northeast Region (1.55%). Sandoval County (6.10%) was the fastest growing county in the 1980s. Between 1980 and 1990, its population increased by 84%. Most of this was due to the rapid expansion of Rio Rancho.

If past demographic trends are any indicator of what is to come in New Mexico, major trade and service centers, with the possible exception of Bernalillo County, will become the site of rapid population growth in the 1990s. Affordable real estate in the counties surrounding Bernalillo County will inhibit Bernalillo's population growth, drawing population away from the state's largest metropolitan area. Dona Ana County, because of its proximity to the Texas and Mexican borders, will continue to grow at a rapid rate. On the whole, however, New Mexico's population will increase at a much slower rate.

Adelamar N. Alcantara
Demographer

Subscription Price: $20.00 for one year; $36.00 for two years; $48.00 for three years.
Single copies: Jan.–Feb. Issue $3.50; all others $2.50

Bureau of Business and Economic Research
The University of New Mexico
1920 Lomas NE
Albuquerque, NM 87131-6021
(505) 277-2216

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.
PERMIT NO. 962